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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda items 29 and 68
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 19 September 1991 from His Excellency Najibullah, President of the Republic of Afghanistan, addressed to you.

I have further the honour to request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 29 and 68, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khodaidad BASHARMAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 19 September 1991 from the President of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General

Conveying my salutation and best wishes to you, I would like to state that the people and Government of the Republic of Afghanistan highly appreciate your good offices aimed at a political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan.

As you are well aware, your personal efforts and those of your Special Representative aimed at putting an end to one of the most painful conflicts of the present era, which commenced with the mediation of the Geneva negotiations, continued with the constant contacts with the internal and external parties to the conflict and resulted in your recent five-point statement, are an expressive manifestation of your attentive consideration for putting an end to the grief and sorrow of our people.

The support of the people and Government of the Republic of Afghanistan for your good-offices mission has been displayed steadily in our peace proposals, initiatives and practical deeds. As you have witnessed throughout your joint work with the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, we have made, in good faith, every effort so as to be supportive and cooperative with your endeavours for a political settlement in our country.

In the prevailing situation in which your good offices, together with our own peace-seeking activities towards a political solution and the recent US-Soviet declaration, an important step towards that end, have all boosted the expectation of the Afghan people and that of the international community for the cessation of war and the restoration of peace in our country, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is of the conviction that the cut-off of weapon supplies to the conflicting parties in Afghanistan solely by the United States and the Soviet Union will not and can not result in the cessation of war. Peace can be attained in Afghanistan only when, in accordance with your statement of 21 May 1991, a transitional period is accompanied by the cessation of hostilities through a cease-fire and an agreement to end arms supplies to all Afghan sides by all the supplying sources. We are also of the opinion that in order to verify a practical termination of arms supplies to Afghanistan, an effective international control mechanism should be worked out in close cooperation with the United Nations.

NAJIBULLAH
President of the Republic
of Afghanistan

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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 30 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, dated 18 September 1991.

I have further the honour to request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 29 and 68, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khodaidad BASHARMAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement issued on 18 September 1991 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan

As is well known, the Republic of Afghanistan has supported the five-point statement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the recent statement made by the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on ending arms supplies to Afghanistan, and has expressed its readiness to contribute to and cooperate in every process resulting in the restoration of peace in the war-stricken land of the people of Afghanistan.

Regrettably, however, the opposition forces and their Pakistani patrons have not only refrained from giving a clearly positive response to the above-mentioned statements but, on the contrary, have intensified their military activities in Afghanistan, particularly in the provinces bordering Pakistan. From the information we have at our disposal, it appears that the opposition forces, in collaboration with and with the direct support of the military circles of Pakistan, have of late noticeably increased the transportation of weapons and ammunitions from Pakistan into the territory of Afghanistan. They have also intensified their armed attacks on a number of provinces bordering Pakistan.

These activities are being carried out at a time when extensive diplomatic efforts for an intra-Afghan dialogue and the rapid termination of war in Afghanistan are in progress. Such activities, being made in flagrant contradiction to the desire of the international community, the statement of the United Nations Secretary-General and the accord made by the two super-Powers for ending the war in Afghanistan, are a graphic manifestation of the determination of the Afghan opposition forces and their Pakistani supporters for the continuation and intensification of war and a crystal-clear defiance of the will of the international community.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan earnestly calls for the termination of such activities and urges that, in lieu of intensifying military operations that will lead to nothing but further killings of innocent people and the destruction of our country, the opposition forces and their Pakistani patrons think sober-mindedly and, by taking a constructive and realistic position, contribute to the implementation of the Secretary-General's statement and the recent declaration of the United States and the Soviet Union on Afghanistan leading to a peaceful, political solution.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan calls seriously upon the international community, the Secretary-General and the super-Powers to utilize their prestige and authority in order to exert pressure on Pakistan to refrain from the intensification of war in Afghanistan, to avoid encouraging the Afghan opposition forces in their war activities and to stop sending deadly weapons into the territory of Afghanistan.

While considering itself committed to the persistent, faithful and unsparing efforts towards a peaceful settlement of the problem in Afghanistan, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan will take every necessary action in order to exercise its legitimate right to defend the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND
SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 30 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the communiqué issued on 30 September by the Presidents of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela and the Prime Minister of the Spanish Government concerning the "New York Agreement" on El Salvador (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and the above-mentioned communiqué distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jorge MONTAÑO
Permanent Representative of
Mexico to the United Nations

ANNEX

COMMUNIQUE BY THE PRESIDENTS OF COLOMBIA, MEXICO AND VENEZUELA AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT

The Presidents of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela and the Prime Minister of the Spanish Government express their deep satisfaction at the progress achieved since the Guadalajara Summit in putting an end to the armed conflict in El Salvador.

They also express their pleasure at the role played by Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Secretary-General of the United Nations, throughout the process of negotiation which concluded on 25 September 1991 with the signing of the New York Agreement.

They consider it to be of the greatest importance that the Secretary-General of the United Nations continue to exert efforts and to offer his invaluable assistance in the next stage of the process in order thereby to ensure the happy culmination of this effort of reconciliation.

They concur in drawing attention once again to the necessity for the parties to the conflict and all the institutions, political parties and social forces of El Salvador to cooperate unreservedly in the current efforts and to contribute to ensuring that the process is concluded successfully.

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INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Under the terms of Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations, "Members of the United Nations which have or assume responsibilities for the administration of territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government" undertake to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information "... relating to economic, social and educational conditions in the territories for which they are respectively responsible other than those territories to which Chapters XII and XIII apply". In addition, the General Assembly, in several resolutions, the most recent of which was resolution 45/16 of 20 November 1990, requested the administering Powers concerned to "continue to transmit to the Secretary-General the information prescribed in Article 73 e of the Charter, as well as the fullest possible information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories concerned".

2. The table annexed to the present report shows the dates on which information called for under Article 73 e of the Charter was transmitted to the Secretary-General in respect of the years 1989 and 1990 up to 30 September 1991.

3. The information transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter follows in general the standard form approved by the General Assembly and includes information on geography, history, population and economic, social and educational conditions. In the case of Territories under the administration of New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the annual reports on the Territories also include information on constitutional matters. Additional information on political and constitutional developments in the Territories under their administration is given by the representatives of New Zealand and the United

States during meetings of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Supplementary information is also made available by New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States concerning Territories under their administration.

4. In compliance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963 and other relevant resolutions of the Assembly, including in particular resolution 45/16, the Secretariat has continued to use the information transmitted in the preparation for the Special Committee of working papers on each Territory. The Special Committee has taken this information into account in formulating its decisions on these Territories, which are set forth in the relevant chapters of the Committee's report to the General Assembly at its current session (see A/46/23 (Parts V-VII)). The report also contains an account of the action taken by the Special Committee in implementation of resolution 1970 (XVIII) (A/46/23 (Part IV), chap. VII).

Annex

DATES OF TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND PERIOD COVERED a/

	Information received in 1990		Information received in 1991	
	Date of receipt	Period covered	Date of receipt	Period covered
FRANCE				
New Caledonia b/	-	-	-	-
NEW ZEALAND (1 July-30 June) c/				
Tokelau	29 May 1990	1988/89	29 July 1991	1990/91
PORTUGAL				
East Timor d/	-	-	-	-
SPAIN				
Western Sahara e/	-	-	-	-
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND				
Anguilla	-	-	-	-
Bermuda	-	-	-	-
British Virgin Islands	2 April 1990	1989/90	6 June 1991 31 July 1991 16 August 1991	1990 1991 1991
Cayman Islands	28 June 1990	1990	30 January 1991 14 June 1991 23 July 1991	1990 1990 1991
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	12 June 1990	1989/90	6 August 1991	1990/91

	Information received in 1990		Information received in 1991	
	Date of receipt	Period covered	Date of receipt	Period covered
Gibraltar	10 September 1990	1988	24 June 1991	1989
Montserrat	-	-	-	-
Pitcairn	10 September 1990	1989/90	31 July 1991	1990
St. Helena (including Tristan da Cunha)	10 September 1990	1989/90	13 June 1991	1989/90
Turks and Caicos Islands	3 April 1990	1989/90	-	-
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (1 October-30 September) f/				
American Samoa	13 March 1990	1988	8 April 1991	1989/90
Guam	13 March 1990	1988	8 April 1991	1989/90
United States Virgin Islands	13 March 1990	1989/90	8 April 1991	1989/90

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table)

a/ For a preliminary list of territories to which the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) applies, see Official Records of the General Assembly, Eighteenth Session, Annexes, addendum to agenda item 23 (A/5446/Rev.1), annex I.

b/ According to its resolution 41/41 A of 2 December 1986, the General Assembly "considers that, in the light of the provisions of Chapter XI of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV), New Caledonia is a Non-Self-Governing Territory within the meaning of the Charter".

c/ Period extends from 1 July of the year listed to 30 June of the following year.

d/ In a note verbale dated 6 April 1979 (A/34/311), the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that the conditions still prevailing in East Timor prevented his Government from assuming its responsibilities for the administration of that Territory. He subsequently informed the Secretary-General (A/35/233, A/36/160, A/37/113, A/38/125, A/39/136, A/40/159, A/41/190, A/42/171, A/43/219 and A/44/262) that the Portuguese Government had nothing to add to the information already provided in that note. In a note verbale dated 19 March 1990 (A/45/172), the Permanent Representative said that since the Portuguese Government continued to be prevented "de facto" from exercising its responsibilities for the administration of East Timor due to the latter's illegal occupation by a third country, it remained unable to provide any information concerning the Territory. On 28 March 1991 (A/46/131), the Permanent Representative referred to the information contained in his note of 19 March 1990 (A/45/172) the terms of which, he stated, remained valid.

e/ On 26 February 1976, the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that "the Spanish Government, as of today, definitely terminates its presence in the Territory of the Sahara and deems it necessary to place the following on record: ... (a) Spain considers itself henceforth exempt from any responsibility of an international nature in connection with the administration of the said Territory, in view of the cessation of its participation in the temporary administration established for the Territory ..." (A/31/56-S/11997). For the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Thirty-first Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1976.

(f) Period extends from 1 October of the previous year to 30 September of the year listed.

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OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

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III.	APPLICATIONS MADE THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS	13 - 14	4

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954, Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training of university standard, but also for study at the post-primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme is included in the twenty-sixth edition of the handbook entitled Study Abroad (1989/1990/1991), published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

4. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions 1/ the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized. 2/ The present report, which covers the period from 1 October 1990 to 30 September 1991, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of Assembly resolution 45/20 of 20 November 1990.

II. SCHOLARSHIP OFFERS AND AWARDS

A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 43 States Members of the United Nations and one non-member State listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the resolutions mentioned above:

Australia
Austria
Brazil
Bulgaria
Canada
Cuba
Cyprus
Czechoslovakia
Egypt
Finland
Gabon
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Hungary
India
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
Malawi
Malta
Mexico
New Zealand
Pakistan
Philippines
Poland

Romania
Singapore
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Uruguay
Yugoslavia

6. In addition to the programme under General Assembly resolution 845 (IX), a number of Member States have contributed to the United Nations Fund for Namibia and the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA), information on which will be contained in the relevant reports to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

B. Offers and awards

Cyprus

7. In a note verbale dated 21 March 1991, the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that the Government of Cyprus was offering a two-year scholarship to an inhabitant of a Non-Self-Governing Territory, tenable at the Cyprus Forestry College for the academic year 1991/92.

Finland

8. In a note verbale dated 26 August 1991, the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that between 1976 and 1988 approximately 1,560 Namibians had studied in Finland under several scholarship programmes and that some of these students were still pursuing their studies in the country.

Israel

9. In a note verbale dated 29 July 1991, the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that his Government stood ready, as always, to share its know-how and training facilities with developing nations, including the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

Singapore

10. In a note verbale dated 30 July 1991, the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that in 1990 training programmes were offered to a total of 62 inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories both bilaterally and under the Government of Singapore Third Country Training Programme.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

11. In a note verbale dated 29 July 1991, the Permanent Mission of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that according to the information provided by the USSR State Committee on Education, no students from Non-Self-Governing Territories were studying at Soviet educational institutions during the academic year 1990/91.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

12. In a note verbale dated 10 April 1991, the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that his Government continued to award educational scholarships to inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories. During the financial year 1990/91, a total of 195 students from British Dependent Territories had benefited from such assistance, as follows: Anguilla (7), Bermuda (20), British Virgin Islands (12), Cayman Islands (8), Falkland Islands (27), Gibraltar (24), Montserrat (16), St. Helena (55) and Turks and Caicos Islands (26). In addition, the United Kingdom Government had awarded 164 scholarships to students from Namibia for the year 1990/91.

III. APPLICATIONS MADE THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS

13. In accordance with the procedure established in General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the United Nations Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

14. Between 1 September 1990 and 30 September 1991 the Secretariat received requests from 89 students for information on the availability of scholarships. None of those students were inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Requests for information and applications received from South African students were forwarded for consideration to UNETPSA, as well as to the offering Governments.

Notes

1/ The most recent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this question are resolutions 43/32 of 22 November 1988, 44/87 of 11 December 1989 and 45/20 of 20 November 1990.

2/ For the most recent reports, see A/43/677, A/44/613 and Add.1 and A/45/560 and Add.1.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 30 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the statement of the European Community and its member States on Zaire, issued on 27 September 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 30.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAIK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement on Zaire, issued on 27 September 1991 at Brussels and The Hague by the European Community

The Community and its member States are deeply concerned about the critical situation in Zaire. They deplore the course of events and launch an urgent appeal to restore peace and security in the country. The Community and its member States are convinced that political initiatives designed to bring about democratization are the only way to satisfy the aspirations of the people. They therefore urge both the Government and all political and social forces to do their utmost best to reach an agreement on the political future of Zaire, in which the rule of law, the organization of free elections and the respect of human rights are guaranteed.

The Community and its member States also stress the importance of overcoming the social and economic impasse in order to improve the deteriorated living conditions of the people of Zaire.

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Agenda item 30

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

Letter dated 30 September 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the statement of the European Community and its member States on Liberia, issued on 27 September 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 30.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAIK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement on Liberia, issued on 27 September 1991 at Brussels and The Hague by the European Community

The Community and its member States welcome the final communiqué of the second meeting of the Committee of Five of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), held at Yamassoukro on 16 and 17 September. They have noted with satisfaction the agreement of the parties involved on disarmament and on the organization and supervision of free and democratic elections. They express the hope that the steps agreed by the parties attending the meeting will be immediately and successfully implemented.

The Community and its member States remain deeply concerned about the humanitarian needs of the Liberian people and hope that a peaceful solution of the conflict will bring a rapid end to their sufferings and open the possibility to build a democratic Liberia.

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79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 88, 89, 90,
137 and 143

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN AFRICA:

(a) FINAL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT 1986-1990

(b) AFRICA'S COMMODITY PROBLEMS

LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THE DIVERSIFICATION AND MODERNIZATION OF PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 1 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77 adopted on 30 September 1991 on the occasion of their fifteenth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77, I would highly appreciate it if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 21, 43, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 88, 89, 90, 137 and 143.

(Signed) Kofi Nyidevu AWOONOR
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ghana
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77
New York

ANNEX

DECLARATION OF THE MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GROUP OF 77

I

1. The fifteenth annual meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 was held in New York on 30 September 1991.

2. The Ministers welcomed the admission to membership of the United Nations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as well as Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The admission of these new members strengthens the ideal of universality of the United Nations.

3. The Ministers took note with appreciation of the results of the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Accra, Ghana, from 2 to 7 September 1991.

4. The Ministers welcomed the Special High-level Meeting of the Economic and Social Council held in Geneva on 4 to 5 July 1991 on the subject: "Impact of the recent evolution of East-West relations on the growth of the world economy, in particular on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international economic cooperation", and the useful contribution to the preparation of this meeting from the Colloquium held in Algiers from 4 to 6 May 1991. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the assurances given by the developed countries and multilateral financial institutions that assistance given to the Eastern European countries would not be at the expense of the developing countries.

5. The Ministers expressed grave concern over the continuing deterioration of the economic and social situation in most developing countries, which is due largely to the adverse international economic environment. The Ministers also noted with concern that the inadequate fiscal and monetary policies of the major industrialized countries continue to have a serious adverse impact on the prospects for growth and development in the developing countries. They urged that the tendency towards the marginalization of the developing countries should be reversed and that conditions be created to spur growth and development on a wide front, particularly in developing countries.

6. The Ministers reiterated that recent developments in the international political and economic scene have strengthened their resolve to implement the goals and objectives of the Group of 77 as enunciated in past Ministerial Declarations, in particular the Caracas Declaration of June 1989.

7. The Ministers expressed concern at the concerted effort being made to introduce conditionalities - political, social and economic - in redefining the basis for international economic cooperation. The Ministers stressed that the development path followed by a country is a product of a complex interplay of historic, social, geographic and cultural factors. Each country has to define for itself its national goals, objectives and priorities in its struggle to eradicate poverty and accelerate growth and development, in the full exercise of its sovereign rights. The Ministers stressed that the role of international cooperation is to support and supplement the national efforts of developing countries. In this connection, the Ministers questioned the assumptions underlying the methodology of a recent development publication of a United Nations agency which seeks to impose a uniform perspective of growth and development oblivious to the diversity and uniqueness of each country.

8. The Ministers underlined the importance and relevance of the landmark resolutions adopting the declaration of the Eighteenth Special Session of the General Assembly on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. They reiterated the need for political will on the part of developed countries for the effective implementation of their commitments embodied in these resolutions.

9. The Ministers reiterated that in an increasingly interdependent world the goals of sustained economic development of developing countries is overwhelmingly dependent on a favorable international economic environment. The Ministers expressed their view that the emerging global economic order should provide for more equitable economic opportunities for all nations, important features of which should be the strengthening of a free, open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, effective macroeconomic coordination, and fiscal discipline to ensure stable conditions conducive to development in the world economy. In this context, the coordination of international macroeconomic policies should be broadened to take into account the concerns of all countries, in particular developing countries. Such coordination should be directed towards global economic growth and social development so as to achieve equitable distribution of the fruits of progress through an expanded world economy.

10. The Ministers recognized that economic and social development is a goal which is also an essential element for ensuring lasting peace and security. Noting the recent changes which have occurred in the international political situation, they stressed that the economic development of developing countries has become more urgent than ever in order to achieve an

equitable and universal new international economic order. In this connection, they reaffirmed that there is an urgent need to resume the North-South dialogue on a constructive basis as an instrument for the promotion of the economic growth and development of developing countries.

11. The Ministers welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for an international conference on the financing of development and expressed the hope that this proposal would be given concrete shape during the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly.

12. The Ministers noted the role of the United Nations in the promotion of peace and security and emphasized the need to make the United Nations system more responsive to the development needs, objectives and priorities of the developing countries.

13. The Ministers took note of the measures for reform and restructuring of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and reiterated the important role of the United Nations in international economic cooperation in promoting the development of developing countries and resolved to strive to make the United Nations more democratic, effective and efficient to enable the Organization to meet new challenges. In all its intergovernmental structures the United Nations must promote a more equitable and balanced representation of its members to reflect its increased membership and the ideal that its decision-making process be made more democratic and transparent.

14. In regard to the agenda item of the United Nations General Assembly on the strengthening of coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance, the Ministers stressed that the discussion and outcome should be based on a clear definition of the types of emergency situations, on respect for the fundamental principles of national sovereignty, on the basis of the request and consent of the affected country, on the allocation of new and additional financial resources for this purpose, taking into consideration the existing structure within the U.N. system in this field, and bearing in mind United Nations General Assembly resolutions in this regard. To this end, they stressed the need for a concerted effort by the developing countries to coordinate and harmonize their position on this item.

II

15. The Ministers emphasized that the problem of the external debt and debt servicing of developing countries continues to impose severe constraints on their economic growth and development. The servicing of this huge external debt has drained badly needed resources for investment. It has also led to a situation where every year there is an increasing net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries.

The response of the international community to the debt problem has been sporadic, piecemeal and inadequate. The Ministers stressed that only a comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problem which would take into account the need to significantly reduce the stock and service of all types of debt to all types of debtor countries and include anticipatory measures to prevent the proliferation of the debt problem, would lead to the alleviation of this burden on the developing world. In the absence of such measures the efforts being made by developing countries for their accelerated development would be thwarted and bring in its wake the greater risk of social and political turmoil. In this respect, the Ministers emphasized that a durable solution must include strengthening and liberalization of the international trading system as the most important source of real growth and development and, therefore, of the resources necessary for debtor countries to face their financial obligations. They also took note of recent debt reduction measures and initiatives as an important step towards a durable solution of the external debt problem, and emphasized the need for similar arrangements to be extended to all indebted developing countries. At the same time they reiterated the advisability of seeking innovative and creative ideas for the solution of the external debt problem in an International Advisory Commission on Debt and Development under the aegis of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

16. The Ministers emphasized that concessional finance is vital for developing countries. They urged developed countries to work towards realizing their commitment of attaining the internationally agreed target of 0.7% of GNP as official development assistance.

17. The declining flow and scarcity of resources, the Ministers reiterated, was a matter of grave concern. In this connection, they noted that commercial financial flows to developing countries have virtually come to a halt. Moreover, the flow of foreign direct investment to developing countries has declined and in the past decade foreign direct investment has been predominantly directed towards the triad - EEC, Japan and North America. While a large number of developing countries have taken important measures for reform and liberalization of their economies, these efforts have not been matched by a corresponding increase in the level of foreign direct investment in these countries.

18. The Ministers reiterated that the present international monetary system which is based on the dominant role of the major developed countries is in need of reform. They expressed serious concern over the lack of progress in efforts to effect meaningful reform and to restructure the international monetary and financial system. The International Monetary Fund should ensure efficient multilateral surveillance particularly over balance of

payments trends and exchange policies of the major developed countries. They called for a broadening of participation in the process of coordination of global economic and monetary policies.

19. The Ministers reiterated their conviction that a free, open and nondiscriminatory international trading system is necessary for the economic prosperity and development of all countries especially the developing countries. They noted with concern that world trade with regard to the products exported by developing countries continued to be characterized by market instability, a sharp and continuous decline in prices of those products, restricted access to the markets of developed countries, and upsurge of protectionism, unfair competition, production and export subsidies by developed countries and in some cases price-fixing by some transnational corporations. The Ministers agreed that international trade will function best in an environment of growth and dynamism in the world economy. There is a need for policies and measures to be directed in the first place to arresting and reversing negative trends particularly those apparent in the last decade. International organizations in the field of trade should be strengthened to play their part in the achievement of these objectives. The strengthening of the trading system also requires the resolution of a number of ongoing issues, some of which are of special interest to developing countries and are crucial to the development process.

20. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations within the GATT so as to avoid the negative consequences of failure which would surely fall upon developing countries. Only an early, fully comprehensive and balanced outcome of the negotiations, taking into account the interests of all parties, specially the needs and concerns of developing countries can ensure a new era of growth for the world as a whole. To that end, they particularly urged the developed countries to comply with the commitments undertaken in the Punta del Este Declaration and at the Ministerial Meetings of Montreal and Brussels, and called upon all developing countries to strengthen their mutual understanding and solidarity in the negotiating process of the Uruguay Round.

21. The Ministers reaffirmed the important role of UNCTAD, with its universal character and its development mandate, in international economic cooperation and in forging multilateral solutions in the interconnected areas of money, finance, trade, commodities and development. The Ministers expressed concern that the commitments undertaken in the Final Act of UNCTAD VII have not been adequately implemented. They noted that UNCTAD VIII, to be held in Colombia, in 1992, will take place at a singularly complex juncture, involving both opportunities and challenges for advancing international cooperation for

development. UNCTAD VIII, with its development oriented agenda, will provide a privileged opportunity to restore a fruitful dialogue on development taking into account global political, economic and technological changes of the recent past and the close interrelationship between inter alia trade, investment, technology and sustainable development. The Ministers strongly hoped that their partners from the developed world would use the unique opportunity of UNCTAD VIII to achieve a maximum positive action-oriented outcome. The concrete results of the Conference will breathe new life into the development dialogue, give a much needed impetus to multilateral economic cooperation and impart fresh vigor to UNCTAD's work on national and international policy-making. The Ministers reaffirmed the continuing validity of the UNCTAD mandate and considered that the strengthening of UNCTAD in its three basic functions - global analysis, conceptual innovation, policy coordination; negotiations; and technical assistance - will be instrumental to the revitalization of the development process of the developing countries.

22. The Ministers expressed their concern that the persistent commodity problems caused by the deterioration in the terms of trade and increased protectionism have adversely affected commodity-exporting developing countries. They stressed the exceptional importance that international trade in commodities have for the world economy and in particular their dominant influence on the development of the majority of developing countries. They stressed the need for the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to improve processing, marketing, distribution and transportation of commodities so as to continue the process of diversification and restructuring of their economies.

23. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of the Integrated Programme of Commodities and to this end noted the commodity development programmes of the Common Fund for Commodities, which go a long way in facilitating technological innovation to meet the challenges of substitution and competitiveness posed by the rapid achievements of science and technology. The Ministers called upon all countries that have ratified the Agreement establishing the Common Fund to ensure that both accounts of the Common Fund become fully operational as soon as possible. They also urged those countries who have not yet ratified the Agreement to rethink their position. The Ministers called upon the international community to increase funding for the Common Fund for Commodities.

24. The Ministers observed that only one international commodity agreement is in force in economic terms. The Ministers called for an early renegotiation, reactivation and revitalization, as appropriate, of international commodity agreements to enhance price support measures for developing countries dependent on the export of commodities.

25. The Ministers stressed that science and technology is crucial for the promotion of economic growth and development of developing countries. The benefits of science and technology can be optimized by jointly promoting and strengthening endogenous capacities of developing countries and by evolving effective modalities for the access to and transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms. The Ministers expressed concern at the increasing trend to hinder the free flow of technology to developing countries. These measures, whether unilateral or multilateral, widen the chasm between developed and developing countries and are contrary to the principles of free trade and not in consonance with the basic aim of promoting development in the developing countries by increasing efficiency and competitiveness.

26. The Ministers noted that no significant progress has been made in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development adopted in 1979. In this context, they called on all countries, especially developed ones as well as on the international development institutions, to seriously consider the establishment of a United Nations financing system for science and technology for development as envisaged in the Vienna Programme of Action.

27. The Ministers reaffirmed that food and agriculture, inter alia, adequate production and food security, have special importance in the development of developing countries. They highlighted the importance of ensuring developing countries' access to markets in the context of a full liberalization of agricultural trade and the supply of the inputs necessary for production, taking into consideration the interests of the net food importing developing countries. They also stressed that an increase in agricultural production in developing countries can be a basis for industrial growth and diversification of their economic structure. The Ministers called upon the international community particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to closely monitor further development in the global food situation with a view to responding adequately and timely to the needs of developing countries. The Ministers called on all donor countries to ensure the maintenance of food assistance and to increase its share of aid channeled through the World Food Programme to enable the Programme to continue its activity in support of development and in meeting emergency food needs of developing countries. The Ministers reaffirmed that the right to food is a universal human right and should be guaranteed to all people and should not be used as an instrument of political pressure.

28. The Ministers reiterated that the adequate supply of energy is vital to the acceleration of growth and development of the developing countries. The Ministers called upon all countries to

assist the developing countries in developing their energy resources. The international community should explore ways and means of overcoming the adverse effects of energy price fluctuations on developing countries. In view of their crucial importance for all countries, it is necessary to develop new and renewable sources of energy in accordance with the objectives of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

29. The Ministers expressed deep concern over the continued deterioration of the economic and social situation in the least developed countries. They further noted that over the past decade most of the least developed countries have experienced negative growth rates and suffered from inadequate international development assistance to implement their programmes of economic development and structural transformation. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to many developed and other countries and to international organizations for their contribution to mitigating the exceptionally grave situation in the least developed sub-Saharan countries, and emphasized that this drive should be continued and expanded. Referring to the serious vulnerabilities of the least developed countries, the Ministers reaffirmed the special needs of these countries and called for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s as well as other concrete measures in specific areas considered important to spur growth and development in these countries on a sustained basis.

30. The Ministers reaffirmed that people are central to all development activities and that human resource development is an essential means of achieving economic and social development goals. They urged that the development of human resources should be undertaken in an overall, well conceived and integrated approach, taking into account such areas as health, nutritional improvements, education and training as well as creating more opportunities for employment. In this regard, human resource development should be designed for purposes of realizing the potential capabilities, skills and self-reliance to meet the growing manpower requirements of the developing countries.

31. The Ministers emphasized the importance of achieving adequate levels of industrialization in developing countries as one of the main ways to assure the reactivation of their economic growth and development. They pointed out the necessity to properly assist the different stages of industrialization of developing countries. They noted that the target established at the Lima Conference of 25% of world manufacturing value added is far from being achieved by the developing countries. They called for the application of the principle of comparative advantage for the phasing out of industrial units in the developed countries in areas in which the developing countries' industries are more efficient and to this end called upon developed countries to

eliminate protectionist measures in support of their uncompetitive industries.

32. The Ministers expressed concern over the continued deterioration of the economic situation in most African countries. They noted that Africa's dependence on few commodities for its export income, the declining terms of trade for commodities and the mounting debt burden have created a vicious circle from which it has become very difficult for Africa to extricate itself. Africa's external debt has increased considerably since 1982 and currently stands at over $270 billion dollars. The Ministers drew the attention of the international community that five years after the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) by the U.N. General Assembly, the economic crisis facing African countries presently has not significantly been any different from what it was. In view of the critical economic situation in Africa, the Ministers appealed to the international community to give adequate support to the implementation of a new agenda of international economic cooperation with Africa for the 1990s, designed to achieve the accelerated transformation, integration and growth of the African economies based on measurable goals and targets within a well-defined time-frame and with built-in monitorable performance criteria.

33. The Ministers recalled all previous decisions of the Group of 77 concerning the land-locked developing countries and noted with concern that the measures taken so far have not been sufficient to tackle the serious problems faced by these countries. They reiterated the need to address the specific problems of these developing countries with regard to reducing the costs of their access to and from the sea and world markets. They stressed the need for the international community to assist and improve the quality, efficiency and reliability of transport facilities, diversify their economies and increase financial resources and technical cooperation to promote the above-mentioned activities. In this context, the Ministers stressed the need and importance of cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries.

34. The Ministers recognized the acute problems faced by island developing countries arising from their small size, remoteness, high exposure to natural disasters, limitations in transport and communications, great distances from market centers, limited availability of fresh water, heavy dependence on imports, depletion of their non-renewable resources and shortage of administrative personnel. They noted that the specific problems of island developing countries and the growing incidence of natural disasters retarded their growth and increased their susceptibility to the hostile economic environment, and expressed the need for the international community, particularly the donor

countries and the United Nations system to address the specific problems of these island developing countries.

35. The Ministers reaffirmed the principles of universality, multilateralism, voluntary/grant nature, neutrality, non-conditionality and flexibility in meeting the technical cooperation requirements of developing countries. The Ministers pointed to the importance of meeting increasing resource needs of developing countries in regard to the operational activities for development. They stressed that the way to achieve this objective is through substantial and urgent increase in real terms of the overall level of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system on a continuous, predictable and assured basis bearing in mind the special needs of the LDCs. They further stressed that the developing countries should assume full responsibility for the execution of projects funded by the United Nations system in order to ensure that they are managed in an integrated manner, to strengthen national capacities and to ensure the long-term sustainability and wide impact of projects in the development process. In this connection, greater flexibility should be allowed the developing countries in their selection of executing entities. Moreover, the Ministers emphasized that the programming of operational activities must be in full accord with the priorities, objectives, national plans and development strategies of developing countries, who are solely responsible for their definition. In this regard, the Ministers stressed the need for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/211.

36. The Ministers noted that rapid population growth in developing countries may be a constraint on their development efforts. The international community should support the national policies and programmes of all countries, especially developing countries, taking into account the sovereign right of all countries to formulate, adopt and implement their population policies, mindful of their culture, values and traditions, as well as their social, economic and political conditions. Such population programmes should be accompanied by improvements in the quality of human resources and expansion of job opportunities. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the convening of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994.

37. The Ministers noted with great concern the refusal of Israel to comply with U.N. resolutions to put an end to its occupation of Arab territories in Palestine, Syrian Golan and parts of Southern Lebanon, and the continuation of the Israeli occupation authorities in establishing settlements in those territories and bringing in new Jewish immigrants depriving the indigenous people of their land and sovereignty over their natural resources, thus impeding their economic and social development and the peace

process in the Middle East. In this context, the Ministers affirmed the urgent need to see the termination of this occupation. Taking into account the recent developments on the Middle East question, the Ministers called for a halt to these settlement activities and the removal of these settlements from all occupied Arab territories.

38. The Ministers noted the evolving situation in South Africa which has so far led to the repeal of some major apartheid laws. Taking into account the on-going efforts to end violence in South Africa, the Ministers called for more initiatives to address the undemocratic constitution that is now in place. In this regard the Ministers supported the call to speed up the process of negotiations through the establishment of appropriate interim measures to oversee the period of transition to a democratic South Africa as well as the convening of a democratically elected Constituent Assembly to draft a new constitution. The Ministers, noting that the current level of changes in South Africa are not yet profound and irreversible, further noted the necessity of maintaining pressure against South Africa in order to expedite the initiation of real negotiations. The Ministers further called for continued assistance to the democratic forces in South Africa.

39. The Ministers called upon the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of coercive economic measures, in particular against developing countries, as a means of forcibly imposing the will of one state on another, a trend which persists and has taken new forms, as evident in blockades, embargoes and the freezing of assets of developing countries. The Ministers noted that these coercive measures have not been authorized by the relevant organs of the United Nations.

40. The Ministers expressed their support for resolution 13/2 adopted at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements and endorsed at the second regular session of the Economic and Social Council in 1991, that it is highly opportune to convene, possibly in 1997, a United Nations conference on human settlements (HABITAT II) to review past policies and decide on a strategy and guidelines for future action. Planning and development of human settlements can greatly enhance social and economic development, and thereby contribute to alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development.

41. In the context of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Ministers welcomed the establishment of the new United Nations Drug Control Programme and expressed their desire that the programme be strengthened.

42. The Ministers reiterated the importance of social matters within the system of the United Nations. They stressed the need for a concerted effort by developing countries to coordinate and harmonize their positions in this area. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the possibility of convening a world summit for social development.

III

43. The Ministers stressed the historic importance of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992. The holding of this Conference has raised expectations, particularly in developing countries, that environmental issues and development will be treated in an integrated manner, and the hope of all citizens on our planet for a sustainable lifestyle in a clean, safe and healthy environment.

44. The Ministers reaffirmed the provisions, which include commitments, principles and objectives, contained in General Assembly resolution 44/228 and stressed that these should be integrated in the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. They reiterated that international cooperation should support and supplement national policies and efforts of developing countries in pursuance of their sustainable development. Any meaningful participation of developing countries in international efforts regarding the protection and enhancement of the environment is dependent upon the revitalization of their growth and development.

45. The Ministers highlighted the strains to the environment being imposed by unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in the developed countries. The developed countries have the main responsibility for environmental degradation and must take remedial action accordingly.

46. In this regard, the Ministers emphasized that new and additional financial resources should be made available to the developing countries and that environmentally sound technologies must be transferred to them on preferential and non-commercial terms to enable them to address environmental concerns.

47. The Ministers stressed the importance of the final stages of the preparatory process for UNCED, in particular PREPCOM IV, which should reach final decisions on all issues for recommendation to UNCED 1992. They expressed the hope that the outcome of the Conference, embodying a declaration of principles, programme of action, a framework convention on climate change, a convention on biological diversity and suggestions for institutional arrangements, would be balanced and match the expectations, particularly in developing countries, raised by this Conference.

IV

48. The Ministers stressed that in addition to efforts undertaken by developing countries to promote economic and technical cooperation among themselves, the objectives set forth by the Caracas Programme of Action on ECDC need to be further pursued and accomplished. In this context, they called upon the donor countries as well as the United Nations organizations in all their programmes to extend their support to these efforts to strengthen the collective self-reliance of the developing countries. The Ministers also stressed the importance of urgent consideration of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the South Commission report "The Challenge to the South".

49. The Ministers took note of the postponement of the Eighth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on ECDC (IFCC-VIII) which was scheduled to take place in September 1991. In this connection, the Ministers requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to immediately undertake the necessary consultations with Member States to find a host for the meeting. In the event that no offer to host the meeting is received by the end of April 1992, the Chairman of the Group of 77 is expected to undertake the necessary measures for convening IFCC-VIII at a suitable date, preferably in August 1992 in one of the regional commissions or in New York.